

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036
(212) 278-0400

Date: January 19, 2000
Atty Docket No. 7217/60612

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

With reference to the filing in the United States Patent and Trademark
Office of an application for patent in the name(s) of:

Masaki Hanzawa
entitled: ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR LOADING THEREON A RECORDING MEDIUM
EMPLOYING A SOLID-STATE MEMORY ELEMENT

Small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9(f) is
claimed and the amounts shown in parentheses below have been
employed.

The following are enclosed:

☒ Specification

☒ 12 Claims(s) (including 1 independent claim(s))

☒ Preliminary Amendment

☒ Unsigned Oath or Declaration, Power of Attorney & Petition

☒ 5 Sheet(s) of Drawings

☒ Our check for \$690.00 calculated as follows:

Basic Fee of \$690 (\$345) \$ 690.00

___ Total Claims in excess of 20 at \$18 (\$9).....\$.00

___ Ind. Claims in excess of 3 at \$78 (\$39).....\$.00

___ Fee of \$260 (\$130) for Mult. Dep. Claim.....\$.00

Total Filing Fee **\$690.00**

Assignment Recording Fee of \$40\$.00

☒ Certified copy of each of the following to
substantiate the claim for priority:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Country</u>
P11-014516	January 22, 1999	JAPAN

☒ Please charge any additional fees required for the filing of this
application and any other fees required during the pendency of
this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.
03-3125. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

By: Jay H. Maioli

Jay H. Maioli
Reg. No. 27,213

01/20/00
jc685 U.S. PTO

jc559 U.S. PTO
09/487675
01/20/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Masaki Hanzawa
Serial No.:
Filed :
For : ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR LOADING
THEREON A RECORDING MEDIUM
EMPLOYING A SOLID-STATE MEMORY
ELEMENT

January 19, 2000
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
(212) 278-0400

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

line 1, change "on" to --such as--;
same line, change ",", to --or--;
line 2, delete "or the like system. This electronic equipment";
line 5, change "casing" to --main body unit--;
line 8, delete "for the memory holder".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-12 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) An electronic equipment employing a memory member having a solid state storage element as a recording medium, the electronic equipment comprising:

a main body unit [of the equipment] for recording the information on a memory member having a solid-state storage element;

a memory holder provided on said main body unit [of the equipment, said memory holder] and having a terminal section for connection to a terminal of said memory [holder] member, said memory holder being adapted for detachably holding said memory member;

a holder container formed on [the] an outer periphery of said [casing] main body unit for accommodating the memory holder therein; and

a holder operating mechanism for causing movement of said memory holder between a loading/unloading position enabling loading/unloading of said memory member [for said memory holder] and a housing position for housing said memory holder in said holder container in a manner such as not to permit loading/unloading of said memory member[;], wherein

said holder operating mechanism [maintaining] maintains contact between said memory member and the terminal section in a state in which the memory holder having said memory member loaded thereon has been moved from [its] the housing position within the holder container to the loading/unloading position.

--2. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1 further comprising:

a memory inserting/detachment mechanism for inserting/detachment said memory member [for] relative to said memory holder.

--3. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said holder operating mechanism includes a lock member for restricting movement of said memory holder and a restriction-removing operating member for removing movement restrictions imposed by said lock member.

--4. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein said memory inserting/detachment member includes an ejecting member for ejecting said memory member from [within] the memory holder and an

ejection operating member for operating said ejecting member.

--5. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said main body unit [of the equipment] includes a cartridge holder for loadably/unloadably holding a recording medium cartridge carrying an information recording medium, said [casing] main body unit having an opening for causing the cartridge holder to face outwards and a lid for opening/closing said opening, said memory holder and the holder container being mounted on said lid.

--6. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said holder container is formed at a mid portion on the outer peripheral surface of said [casing] main body unit.

--7. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1 further comprising:

detection means for detecting [that] whether said memory holder has been moved from [within] the holder container.

--8. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 5 [wherein said lid is] further comprising means for rotationally [mounted] mounting said lid on said main body unit of the equipment and wherein said memory holder is rotationally mounted relative to said lid.

--9. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 5 wherein said holder operating mechanism includes a lock member for restricting movement of said memory holder and a restriction-removing operating member for removing movement restrictions imposed by said lock member and wherein said restriction-removing operating member of said holder operating mechanism is provided on said lid.

--10. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein [an ejection member of] said memory inserting/detachment mechanism [is] includes an ejection member provided at a cut-out portion of said memory holder and accommodated in said holder container.

--11. (Amended) The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein a major surface facing [the outside] an exterior of the memory holder is formed substantially

[in] as a continuation to the outer [peripheral surface]
periphery of said [casing] main body unit.

--12. (Amended) The electronic equipment according
to claim 1 [wherein] further comprising a window [through
which the memory member may be checked] formed in said
memory holder for visually [as to possible] checking
a presence of the memory member held in said memory
holder [is provided in said memory holder].--

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in the application and have been
amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants
are citizens and residents of Japan and this application
originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments made to the
specification are provided to place the application in
idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place
them in better condition for examination.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Electronic Equipment for Loading Thereon a Recording Medium Employing a Solid-State Memory Element

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to an electronic equipment, such as a video camera device employing a recording medium accommodating a solid memory element and, more particularly, to a loading unit having a recording medium detachably loaded thereon.

Description of Prior Art

As a recording medium for a video camera for recording video signals or an audio recording apparatus for recording audio signals, there is employed a memory device having enclosed therein a solid memory element.

If this sort of the memory member is used in an information recording apparatus, such as a video camera, it is used as an auxiliary recording medium for a tape cartridge or a disc cartridge having a large recording capacity.

The video camera, employing this memory member along with the tape cartridge, is provided not only with a cartridge loading unit on which to load the tape cartridge, but also with a memory loading unit on which to load the memory member. This video camera includes a recording and/or reproducing unit for recording and/or reproducing the information on or from a tape cartridge and a memory member, a

cartridge holder adapted for movement between a cartridge loading/unloading position for holding and loading/unloading the tape cartridge and a cartridge loading position enabling recording and/or reproduction of the information on or from the tape cartridge, and a memory loading mechanism for detachably holding the memory member. The memory loading unit, provided on the video camera, is provided on a main body unit of the video camera or on a casing adapted for covering the main body unit. The memory loading unit includes a memory inserting/ejecting opening, via which to insert or eject the memory member, and a memory housing portion in which to accommodate the memory member inserted via the memory inserting/ejecting opening. The memory loading unit includes a terminal portion, to which is connected a terminal of the memory member to be loaded, and an ejection lever for ejecting the memory member housed and loaded in the memory housing portion from the memory insertion/ejection opening.

The above-described video camera records the video information and the audio information on a tape cartridge at the time of imaging to record the picture information of e.g., a still picture on the memory member. The memory member, housed in the memory housing unit, is ejected from the memory insertion/ejection opening on actuating an ejection lever.

With the memory loading unit, provided on a video camera, the memory member is forcibly disconnected from the terminal member if the operation of ejecting the memory member from the inside of the memory housing unit is performed during

the main body unit of the equipment, a holder container formed on the outer periphery of the casing for accommodating the memory holder, and a holder operating mechanism for causing movement of the memory holder between a loading/unloading position which enables loading/unloading of the memory member for the memory holder and a housing position for housing the memory holder in the holder container in a manner such as not to permit loading/unloading of the memory member. The memory holder has a terminal section for connection to a terminal of the memory holder, and is adapted for detachably holding the memory member. The holder operating mechanism maintains contact between the memory member and the terminal section in a state in which the memory holder having the memory member loaded on it has been moved from its position within the holder container to the loading/unloading position. This maintains the state of electrical connection to the main body unit of the device unless the memory member is not withdrawn from the memory holder.

The holder operating mechanism used in this electronic equipment includes a lock member for restricting movement of the memory holder and a restriction-removing operating member for removing the restrictions as set by the lock member.

The main body unit of the equipment includes a cartridge holder for loadably/unloadably holding a recording medium cartridge carrying an information recording medium. The casing has an opening for causing the cartridge holder to face outwards and a lid for opening/closing the opening. The memory holder and the

Fig.6 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view showing the state in which the memory holder is operated by a first loading/unloading unit.

Fig.7 is a perspective view showing the state in which the memory holder has been moved by the first loading/unloading unit.

Fig.8 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view showing the state in which the memory holder has been moved by the first loading/unloading unit.

Fig.9 is a perspective view showing the state in which the memory member is being ejected from the memory holder by a second loading/unloading unit.

Fig.10 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view showing the state in which the memory holder has been ejected from the memory holder by the second loading/unloading unit.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to the drawings, a certain preferred embodiment of according to the present invention will be explained in detail.

A video camera 1, according to the present invention, includes a main body unit 5 of the video camera for recording and/or reproducing the information on or from a tape cartridge, a casing 7 for covering the main body unit 5 and a memory loading unit 10 for covering the main body unit 5 and a memory loading unit 10 provided on an outer rim of the casing 7 and on which is detachably loaded a memory member 4, as shown in Fig.1.

The memory member 4, as a storage medium applied to the video camera 1,

includes a solid-state memory element, such as a flash memory, in its inside, and has a substantially rectangular plate-like configuration. This memory member 4 is used for e.g., recording the information, such as a still picture. As the memory member 4, a so-called integrated circuit (IC) card may be used.

The main body unit 5 includes an information recording and/or reproducing unit for the tape cartridge and the memory member 4, a cartridge holder mounted for movement between a cartridge loading/unloading position for loading/unloading the tape cartridge with respect to the main body unit 5 and a recording and/or reproducing position for enabling information recording and/or reproduction for the tape cartridge, and a loading unit for causing movement of the cartridge holder.

The casing 7 is formed of a synthetic resin material and is provided on an outer peripheral portion of the main body unit 5. The casing 7 is formed with a cartridge insertion/ejection opening 13 for allowing the cartridge holder to face outside, and a lid 15 for opening/closing the cartridge insertion/ejection opening 13. This lid 15 has its lateral side rotatably supported via a rotational hinge pin 18 relative to the opening end of the cartridge insertion/ejection opening 13 of the casing 7, as shown in Fig.2.

The memory loading unit 10 is provided on a lid 15 rotatably mounted on the casing 7, and includes a memory holder 20 for holding the memory member 4 and a holder housing section 21 in which is accommodated the memory holder 20, as shown in Fig.2.

The memory holder 20 is formed as a substantially rectangular box in one end

of which is formed a memory inserting/ejecting opening 23 via which to insert or eject the memory member 4, as shown in Figs.2 and 3. In the major surface of the lid 15, rotatably supported by the casing 7, there is formed the recessed substantially rectangular holder housing section 21. The holder housing section 21 is provided at a mid portion of the lid 15 which is not adjacent to the corners of the outer casing 7, as shown in Figs.1 and 2.

On the opposite end in the memory holder 20 is provided a terminal section 25 to which is electrically connected a terminal of the memory member 4. The opposite end of the memory holder 20 is rotatably supported, via a rotary supporting shaft 27, on a base plate 26 fixedly mounted in the holder housing section 21. Thus, the memory holder 20 is rotated about the rotary supporting shaft 27 for movement between a position in which the memory holder 20 is housed in the holder housing section 21 and a position in which the memory inserting/ejecting opening 23 is protruded outwards from within the holder housing section 21 to permit insertion and ejection of the memory member 4.

On one end of the rotary supporting shaft 27, there is provided a torsion coil spring 28 for biasing the memory holder 20 into rotation in the direction indicated by arrow a1 in Figs.5 and 6 to displace the memory holder 20 from inside the holder housing section 21. This torsion coil spring 28 has its one end and its other end retained by the memory holder 20 and by the bottom of a base plate 26, respectively.

The memory holder 20 is provided with a cover member 30 for covering the

memory holder 20 housed in the holder housing section 21, as shown in Figs.2 and 4. This cover member 30 is formed of, for example, a synthetic resin material, and has its major surface formed with a substantially rectangular check window 32 with which to view and visually confirm the memory member 4 loaded in the memory holder 20. This check window 32 is fitted with a transparent panel member 33 via which to check the possible presence of the memory member 4 housed within the memory holder 20.

The video camera 1 according to the present invention includes a first loading/unloading unit 35 and a second loading/unloading unit 36, as shown in Figs.2 and 3. The first loading/unloading unit 35 causes rotation of the memory holder 20 in a direction towards and away from the inside of the holder housing section 21 to move the memory holder 20 between a loading/unloading position which permits loading/unloading of the memory member 4 relative to the inside of the memory holder 20 and a housing position which houses the memory holder 20 in the memory holder 20. The second loading/unloading unit 36 permits the memory member 4 to be inserted into and detached from the inside of the memory holder 20.

Referring to Figs.4 to 6, the first loading/unloading unit 35 includes a lock lever 39 for being engaged with the memory holder 20 for controlling the rotational operation of the memory holder 20 relative to the holder housing section 21, and a lock pin 40 provided on the memory holder 20 for being engaged by a lock lever 39. The first loading/unloading unit 35 also includes a compression coil spring 41 for biasing the lock lever 39 in a direction of engaging the lock lever 39 with the lock pin 40 of the

memory holder 20 and a slide member 43 for sliding the lock lever 39 for uplifting and lowering the memory holder 20.

The lock lever 39 is formed with guide slits 45, 45 in which are inserted guide pins 46, 46 set upright on the lateral side of the base plate 26. The lock lever 39 is formed with an engagement pawl 47 adapted for engaging with the lock pin 40 of the memory holder 20, as shown in Fig.6.

The lock pin 40 is provided upright on the lateral surface of the memory holder 20 and is engaged by the engagement pawl 47 of the lock lever 39 to cause the lock lever 39 to control the rotation of the memory holder 20.

The compression coil spring 41 has its one end retained by a spring mounting piece provided on the base plate 26 mounted in the inside of the holder housing section 21, while having its opposite end retained by a spring mounting piece of the lock lever 39. Thus, the compression coil spring 41 biases the lock lever 39 in the direction indicated by arrow b2 in Fig.6 so that its engagement pawl 47 will be engaged with the lock pin 40 of the memory holder 20.

The slide member 43 is provided for movement at a position facing one end of the lock lever 39. In the outer periphery of the casing 7 is formed a guide groove 48 adjacent to the holder housing section 21, as shown in Figs.4 and 7, so that the slide member 43 will be movable in the direction indicated by arrows b1 and b2 in Fig.3.

Within the holder housing section 21, there is provided a detection switch 70 having a detector thrust by the memory holder 20 at a position abutted to by the

bottom surface of the memory holder 20 on accommodating the memory holder 20, as shown in Figs.5, 8 and 10. When the memory holder 20 is rotated from within the holder housing section 21, the detector so far thrust by the memory holder 20 is protruded to render it possible to detect reliably that the ejection operation of the memory member 4 has now been started.

By performing control so that the information recording processing for the memory member 4 will be halted on projection of the detector of the detection switch 70, it is possible to prevent a terminal of the memory member 4 from being disconnected from the terminal section 25 during recording processing, so that the memory member 4 can be reliably prohibited from being ejected from within the memory holder 20.

Referring to Fig.3, the second loading/unloading unit 36 includes an ejection arm 51 for ejecting the memory member 4 from within the memory holder 20, an ejection lever 52 for operating this ejection arm 51, a torsion coil spring 53 for biasing the ejection lever 52 in the direction indicated by arrow b2 in Fig.3 and a slide member 54 for sliding the ejection lever 52.

Referring to Fig.3, the ejection arm 51 has its proximal end rotatably supported via a rotation supporting pin 56 set upright on the base plate 26 arranged within the memory holder 20. The ejection arm 51 is formed at its distal end with an abutment piece 57 for abutting against the memory member 4 for ejecting the memory member 4 from inside the memory holder 20. The ejection arm 51 is also formed at its

proximal end with an operating piece 58 rotationally operated by the ejection lever 52.

The ejection lever 52 is arranged on a lateral surface of the memory holder 20 for movement in the direction indicated by arrows b1 and b2 of Fig.3. In the ejection lever 52 are formed guide slits for guiding the movement direction, although these guide slits are not shown. In these guide slits is inserted and movably supported a guide shaft set upright on a lateral surface of the memory holder 20.

The ejection lever 52 is formed with a spring retainer 61 engaged by an end of the torsion coil spring 53 which biases the ejection lever 52 in the direction indicated by arrow b2 in Fig.3. The torsion coil spring 53 has its other end engaged by a spring retainer 62 formed on a lateral surface of the memory holder 20.

Referring to Fig.3, the ejection lever 52 has its distal end formed with an engagement piece 63, engaging with the operating piece 58 of the ejection arm 51, which ejection arm 51 is rotationally driven via this engagement piece 63. The ejection lever 52 is also formed with an operating piece 64 thrust by the slide member 54.

The slide member 54 is arranged facing one end of the ejection lever 52 and is movably supported on the cover member 30 for movement in the direction indicated by arrows b1 and b2 in Fig.3.

The operation of the first and second loading/unloading unit 35 and 36 in the memory loading unit 10 of the video camera 1, constructed as described above, is hereinafter explained with reference to the drawings.

With the video camera 1, the slide member 43 of the first loading/unloading unit

35 is operated, as shown in Figs.4, 5 and 6, for causing movement of the lock lever 39 in the direction indicated by arrow b1 in Fig.6, by operating the slide member 43 of the first loading/unloading unit 35, as shown in Figs.4 to 6. As the lock lever 39 is moved in the direction indicated by arrow b1, as shown in Figs.7 and 8, the lock pin 40 and the engagement pawl 47 of the memory holder 20 are disengaged from each other so that the memory holder 20 is rotated in the direction indicated by arrow a1 in Fig.5, about the rotary supporting shaft 27 as the center of rotation, under the bias of the torsion coil spring 28.

When the memory member 4, loaded inside the memory holder 20, is separated from the inside of the memory holder 20, as shown in Figs.7 and 8, the terminal 24 of the memory member 4 is maintained in the connected state to the terminal 25, as shown in Fig.8.

If, with the video camera 1, the slide member 54 of the second loading/unloading unit 36 of the video camera 1 is operated, with the memory holder 20 having been moved to an insertion/ejection position spaced apart from the inside of the holder housing section 21, the ejection lever 52 is moved in the direction indicated by arrow b1 in Fig.3 against the bias of the torsion coil spring 53, as shown in Figs.7 and 8. As the ejection lever 52 is moved in the direction indicated by arrow b1, the engagement piece 63 compresses against the operating piece 58 of the ejection arm 51 to cause rotation of the ejection arm 51 in the direction indicated by arrow c1 in Fig.3, about the rotary supporting shaft 56 as the center of rotation.

As the ejection arm 51 is rotated in the direction indicated by arrow c1, the terminal of the memory member 4 is moved in a direction away from the terminal section 25 to eject the memory member 4 via the memory inserting/ejecting opening 23 of the memory holder 20. Since the information recording processing by the memory member 4 has come to a close by the time the terminal section 25 is detached from the terminal section 25, the information recorded on the memory member 4 is reliably protected against destruction.

Meanwhile, with the second loading/unloading unit 36, the terminal 24 of the memory member 4 is connected to the terminal section 25, as the memory member 4 is loaded within the memory holder 20, at the same time as the ejection arm 51 is rotated in the direction indicated by arrow c2 in Fig.3, about the rotary supporting shaft 56 as the center of rotation.

It is noted that, if the memory member 4 is loaded in position in the memory holder 20, the second loading/unloading unit 36 cannot be moved in a state in which the first loading/unloading unit 35 is not operated, that is in a state in which the memory holder 20 is not housed in the holder housing section 21.

Therefore, with the memory loading unit 10, it is necessary to actuate not only the first loading/unloading unit 35 but also the second loading/unloading unit 36, in order to take the memory member 4 from inside the memory holder 20, so that time necessary in halting the information recording processing on the memory member 4 is procured. Thus, it is possible to prevent interruption of the information recording

operation on the memory member 4. Meanwhile, when the memory holder 20 is moved via the first loading/unloading unit 35 from its position in the holder housing section 21 to the inserting/ejecting position, the information recording processing for the memory member 4 already has come to a close.

With the memory loading unit 10, provided on the video camera 1, in which the memory member 4 is ejected from the inside of the memory holder 20 by actuating the first and second loading/unloading units 35, 36, it is possible to reliably prohibit the terminal section 25 from being disconnected during the information recording processing on the memory member 4. Thus, with the present video camera 1, it is possible to reliably prevent destruction of the information recorded on the memory member 4 or the information being recorded and hence to improve reliability of the information recording processing for the memory member 4.

Also, since the memory loading unit 10 is provided on the outer periphery of the cover member 30, the video camera 1 is arranged within a plane of the cover member 30 constituting the outer periphery of the casing 7. Thus, with the video camera 1, it is unnecessary to mount the memory inserting/ejecting opening 23 of the memory holder 20 of the memory loading unit 10 at a position facing the outside of the casing 7, so that it is possible to improve the degree of freedom of e.g., the shape of the casing 7. Moreover, since the space on the cover member 30 can be exploited effectively, the overall device can be reduced in size.

Also, with the present video camera 1, in which the memory holder 20 is

movable relative to the holder housing section 21, so that the memory loading unit 10 is not protruded on the outer periphery of the casing 7, the overall device can be reduced in thickness.

Although the present invention is applied in the foregoing embodiment to a video camera, the present invention may also be applied to an audio recording device or other information recording devices, employing a memory member having an internal solid-state storage element as a recording medium for information signals, with advantages similar to those in case of the video camera.

[illegible]

a main body unit of the equipment for recording the information on a memory member having a solid-state storage element;

a holder container formed on the outer periphery of said casing for accommodating the memory holder therein; and

said holder operating mechanism maintaining contact between said memory member and the terminal section in a state in which the memory holder having said memory member loaded thereon has been moved from its position within the holder container to the loading/unloading position.

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a memory inserting/detachment for inserting/detachment said memory member for said memory holder.

3. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said holder operating mechanism includes a lock member for restricting movement of said memory holder and a restriction-removing operating member for removing restrictions imposed by said lock member.

4. The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein said memory inserting/detachment member includes an ejecting member for ejecting said memory member from within the memory holder and an ejection operating member for operating said ejecting member.

5. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said main body unit of the equipment includes a cartridge holder for loadably/unloadably holding a recording medium cartridge carrying an information recording medium, said casing having an opening for causing the cartridge holder to face outwards and a lid for opening/closing said opening, said memory holder and the holder container being mounted on said lid.

6. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein said holder container is formed at a mid portion on the outer peripheral surface of said casing.

7. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 further comprising:

detection means for detecting that said memory holder has been moved from within the holder container.

8. The electronic equipment according to claim 5 wherein said lid is rotationally

mounted on said main body unit of the equipment and wherein said memory holder is rotationally mounted relative to said lid.

9. The electronic equipment according to claim 5 wherein said restriction-removing operating member of said holder operating mechanism is provided on said lid.

10. The electronic equipment according to claim 2 wherein an ejection member of said memory inserting/detachment mechanism is provided at a cut-out portion of said memory holder and accommodated in said holder container.

11. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein a major surface facing the outside of the memory holder is formed substantially in continuation to the outer peripheral surface of said casing.

12. The electronic equipment according to claim 1 wherein a window through which the memory member may be checked visually as to possible presence of the memory member held in said memory holder is provided in said memory holder.

[illegible]

An electronic equipment for recording information signals on a video camera, an audio recording device or the like system. This electronic equipment includes a main body unit for recording the information on a memory member having a solid-state storage element, a memory holder provided on the main body unit of the equipment, a holder container formed on the outer periphery of the casing for accommodating the memory holder and a holder operating mechanism for causing movement of the memory holder between a loading/unloading position enabling loading/unloading of the memory member for the memory holder and a housing position for housing the memory holder in the holder container in a manner such as not to permit loading/unloading of the memory member. The memory holder has a terminal section for connection to a terminal of the memory holder, and is adapted for detachably holding the memory member. The holder operating mechanism maintains contact between the memory member and the terminal section in a state in which the memory holder having the memory member loaded on it has been moved from its position within the holder container to the loading/unloading position. This maintains the state of electrical connection to the main body unit of the device unless the memory member is not withdrawn from the memory holder.

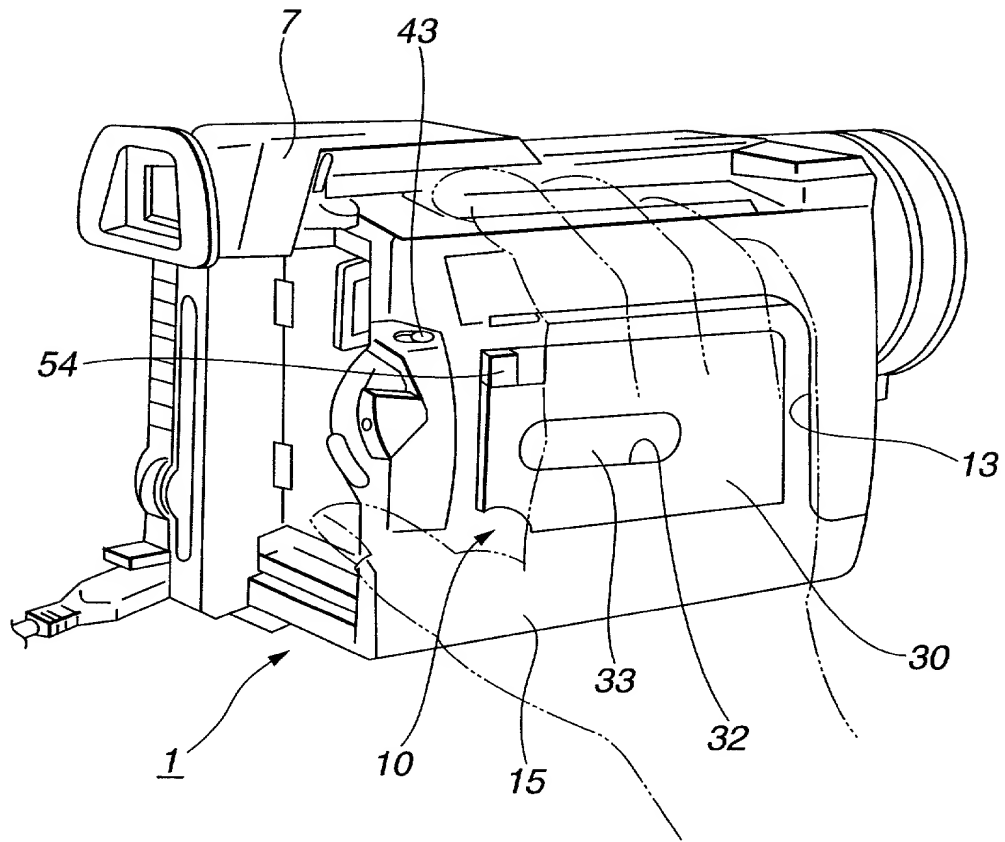


FIG.1

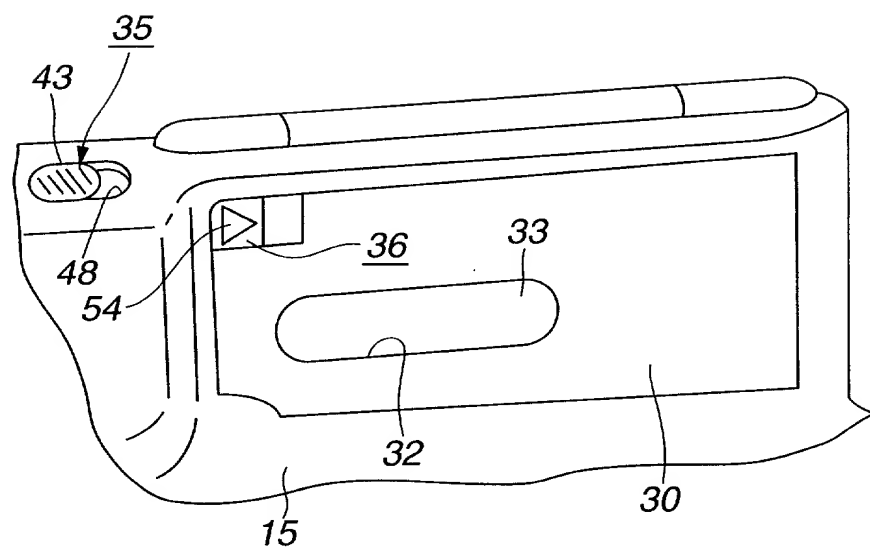


FIG.4

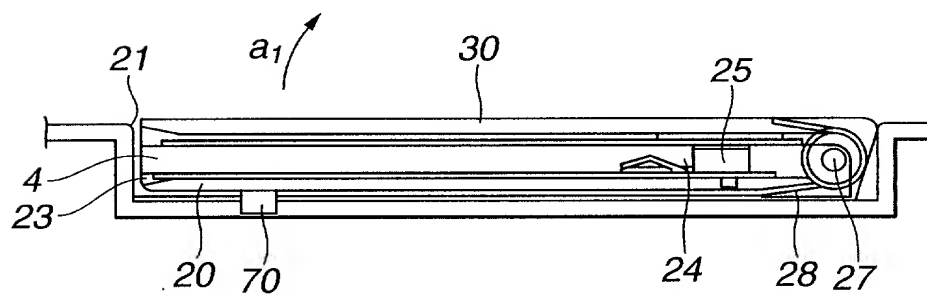


FIG.5

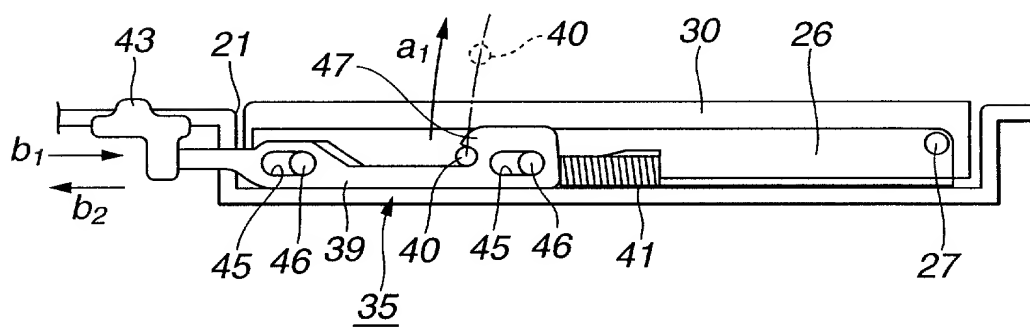


FIG.6

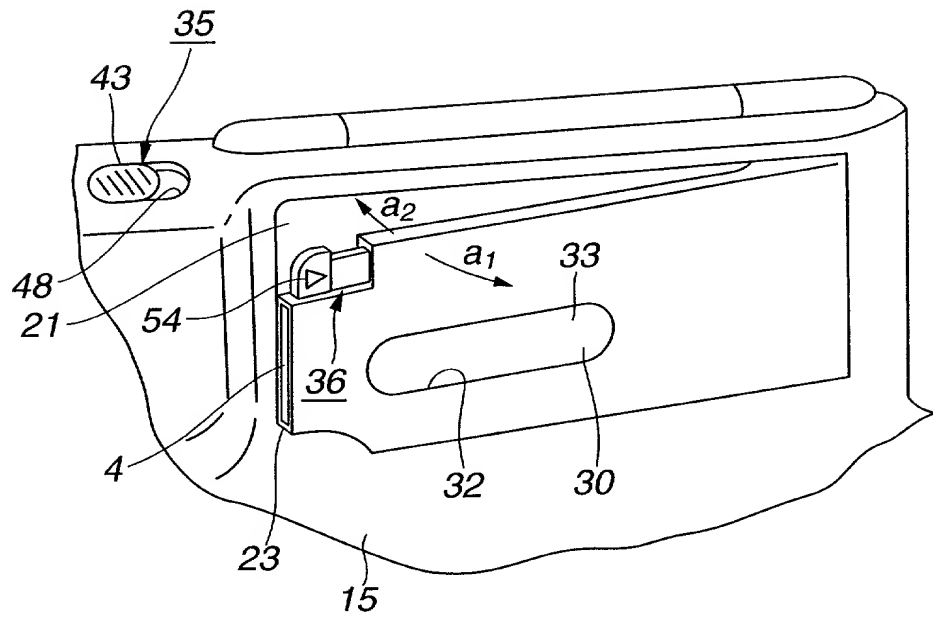


FIG.7

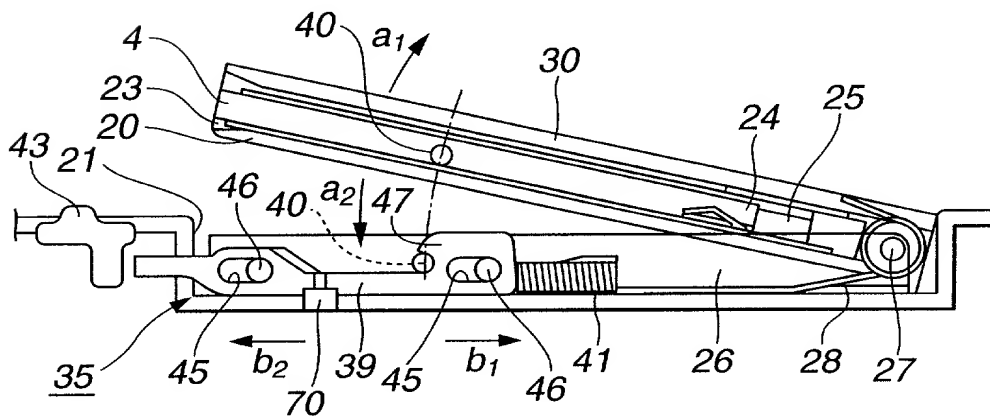


FIG.8

[illegible]

FIG.10

X

Declaration and Power of Attorney

Page 2

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States Application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>Application Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

And I hereby appoint Jay H. Maioli, Reg. No. 27,213; Donald S. Dowden, Reg. No. 20,701; William E. Pelton, Reg. No. 25,702; Peter J. Phillips, Reg. No. 29,691; Gerald W. Griffin, Reg. No. 18,886; Ivan S. Kavrukov, Reg. No. 25,161; Christopher C. Dunham, Reg. No. 22,031; Norman H. Zivin, Reg. No. 25,385; John P. White, Reg. No. 28,678; and Robert D. Katz, Reg. No. 30,141; and each and all of them, all c/o Cooper & Dunham, 1185 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036 (Tel. (212) 278-0400), my attorneys, each with full power of substitution and revocation, to receive the patent, to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and to file any International Applications which are based thereon under the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Please address all communications, and direct all telephone calls, regarding this application to

JAY H. MAIOLI
Cooper & Dunham LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
Tel. (212) 278-0400

Reg. No. 27,213

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or

First joint inventor Masaki Hanzawa

Inventor's signature _____

Citizenship Japanese Date of Signature _____

Residence Chiba, Japan

Post Office Address c/o Sony Corporation, 7-35 Kitashinagawa, 6-Chome,

Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan